

## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112 Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

January 25, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Doug Ellis (360) 664-2735 Toll free 1-877-601-2828

## VIOLATIONS AND CIVIL PENALTIES ISSUED AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING

**Olympia** – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Michael Connelly, issued civil penalties for violations of state Public Disclosure law during brief enforcement hearings held Tuesday in Olympia.

The **Committee For a Responsible Majority** was found in violation of state law for making monetary contributions to 13 legislative candidates during the 2004 election cycle, prior to qualifying by receiving contributions of ten dollars or more, from at least ten persons registered to vote in Washington State during the one hundred and eighty days preceding the date of the contributions. Connelly assessed a civil penalty of \$250 with the entire penalty suspended provided the committee has no future violations for a two year period.

**Kathryn Lamoreaux**, a teacher at Battle Ground High School, and **Amy Fields**, a teacher at Salem Woods Elementary School in the Monroe School District, each stipulated to having committed multiple violations of state law for using school mailboxes to distribute and collect Referendum 55 leaflets and petitions. Both teachers were assessed the maximum civil penalty of \$500 with \$450 of that penalty suspended provided they do not violate disclosure laws for a period of two years.

**Paul Benz**, lobbyist for the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State, was found in violation of state law for failure to file timely monthly lobbyist expense reports. Benz failed to timely file his November L-2 report after having received a warning for previous late filings and was assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

The Voters Want More Choices PAC and the Help Us Help Taxpayers PAC were both found in violation of the state public disclosure law. Voters Want More Choices PAC for failing to timely disclose an in-kind contribution received from Tim and Karen Eyman in the amount of \$1,500 for a poll conducted in October of 2003 and Help Us Help Taxpayers PAC for failing to timely disclose an in-kind contribution received from the Voters Want More Choices PAC in the amount of \$2,109 for a campaign mailing. The political action committees were assessed civil penalties of \$150 each. Connelly dismissed two additional allegations against the committees.

Connelly also dismissed a complaint against **Just Treat Us the Same PAC** alleging failure to timely file a C-4 summary reports of contributions and expenditures.

Persons found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

##